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Justice Department instructed to dismiss legal challenge to Georgia election law

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi on Monday instructed the Justice Department to dismiss a lawsuit challenging a sweeping election overhaul that Georgia Republican lawmakers passed in the wake of President Donald Trump's 2020 election loss in the state.

The lawsuit, filed in June 2021 under former President Joe Biden, alleged that the Georgia law was intended to deny Black voters equal access to the ballot. Bondi said the Biden administration was pushing "false claims of suppression."

"Georgians deserve secure elections, not fabricated claims of false voter suppression meant to divide us," she said.

The law was part of a trend of Republican-backed measures that tightened rules around voting, passed in the months after Trump lost his reelection bid to Biden, claiming without evidence that voter fraud cost him victory. The fallout was swift after Republican Gov. Brian Kemp signed the law in March 2021, with the CEOs of Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines and Coca-Cola voicing criticism and Major League Baseball's commis-



Attorney General Pam Bondi speaks at a news conference at the Justice Department, Feb. 12, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

sioner deciding to move that year's All-Star Game from Atlanta's Truist Park. Kemp and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, both Republicans who drew Trump's ire when they refused to help overturn his 2020 election loss in Georgia, strongly denounced the Justice Department lawsuit when it was filed. Raffensperger on Monday called Bondi's announcement "a significant win for Georgia voters."

"Our commitment has always been to ensure fair and secure elections for every Georgian, despite losing an All-Star game and the left's boycott of Georgia as a result of commonsense election law," Raffensperger said in a statement. Kemp also welcomed Bondi's announcement. He accused Democrats and others of spreading "lies and misinformation" and said, "Georgia is one of the

top states in the country for early voting and experienced record voter turnout in multiple elections since the passage of the Elections Integrity Act." Known as SB 202, the law added a voter ID requirement for mail ballots, shortened the time period for requesting a mailed ballot and resulted in fewer ballot drop boxes available in populous metro Atlanta counties that lean Democratic and have a signifi-

cant Black population. The law also banned the distribution of food and water by various groups and organizations to voters standing in line to cast a ballot. In announcing the dismissal of the lawsuit, Bondi said Black voter turnout in Georgia "actually increased" after the law was passed. A December analysis by the Brennan Center for Justice found that while the number of ballots cast by Black voters increased from 2020 to 2024, Black turnout actually declined by 0.6% because the increase in the number of ballots cast by Black voters did not keep up with population increases.

"Understanding whether, or to what extent, these declines are due to restrictive voting policies such as Georgia's S.B. 202, justifiable feelings that the government is not working for them, or myriad other factors will be of signal importance," the analysis says. In addition to the Justice Department lawsuit, about a half-dozen other suits were filed by civil rights and election integrity groups raising claims based on the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in voting. □

A DOGE employee is put in charge of the U.S. Institute of Peace, a court filing alleges

By GARY FIELDS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An official allied with Elon



The United State Institute of Peace building is seen, Monday, March 17, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Musk's Department of Government Efficiency has been put in charge of the U.S. Institute of Peace, a congressionally created and funded think tank targeted by President Donald Trump for closure, according to a federal court filing Monday. Two board members of the Institute of Peace have authorized replacing its temporary president with Nate Cavanaugh, the filing says. They ordered him, it says, to transfer the institute's property to the General Services Administration, the federal government's real estate manager, which is termi-

nating hundreds of leases at DOGE's behest. The court filing asks U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell in Washington to stop the action or schedule a status conference to address the issues as soon as "practicable." Howell ordered the parties in the case to appear before her Tuesday for a status hearing. The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The action follows a Friday night mass firing of nearly all of the institute's 300 employees. Former employees say only a small number did not get notification,

including colleagues who are abroad, who were given until April 9 to return to the U.S., and the regional vice presidents, who direct the areas where they are based. Two former employees, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said they were reached by private emails because they have been locked out of the institute's system and were not able to return to work since a tense standoff earlier this month in which DOGE members were accompanied by law enforcement. □

Trump is stronger on immigration and weaker on trade, an AP-NORC poll finds

By AMELIA THOMSON-DE-VEAUX and LINLEY SANDERS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Immigration remains a strength for President Donald Trump, but his handling of tariffs is getting more negative feedback, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

About half of U.S. adults approve of Trump's approach to immigration, the survey shows, but only about 4 in 10 have a positive view of the way he's handling the economy and trade negotiations.

The poll indicates that many Americans are still on board with Trump's efforts to ramp up deportations and restrict immigration. But it also suggests that the Republican president's threats to impose tariffs which have been accompanied by tumbling consumer confidence and wild stock market swings might be erasing his advantage on another issue that he made central to his winning 2024 campaign.

The economy was a drag on then-President Joe Biden, who saw the share of Americans who approved of his handling of the economy fall to a low of roughly 3 in 10 in 2023.



A member of the military looks on in front of newly-installed concertina wire lining one of two border walls separating Mexico from the United States during a news conference on joint operations involving the military and the Border Patrol, March 21, 2025, in San Diego.

Associated Press

Trump drew considerable strength in November from voters who prioritized the economy, but just before he took office in January, an AP-NORC poll found that few Americans had high confidence that he'd make progress on lowering prices in his first year.

Views of Trump's job performance overall are more negative than positive, the survey found. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults approve of the way Trump is han-

dling his job as president, and more than half disapprove. Negative opinions are also stronger than positive opinions about 4 in 10 U.S. adults strongly disapprove of Trump's job performance, while about 2 in 10 strongly approve.

Trump's job approval is highest on immigration. More U.S. adults say they approve of Trump's handling of immigration than his approach to the presidency as a whole.

That trend even extends to Democrats. Relatively few, about 2 in 10, say they're on board with how Trump is approaching immigration, but that's higher than the roughly 1 in 10 who approve of his handling of the economy and his job as a whole.

The durability of Trump's appeal on immigration underscores that many U.S. adults support his tough approach, which he has prioritized in the first few

months of his second term. In the past few weeks, Trump's administration has been locked in a court struggle over the deportation of Venezuelan immigrants to El Salvador under an 18th century wartime law, made moves to deport foreign students who took part in pro-Palestinian demonstrations at colleges, and attempted to suspend the nation's refugee admissions system.

Voters who said immigration was their most important issue last November overwhelmingly favored more restrictive policies, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters. The issue was also a higher priority for Americans heading into 2025 than it had been the previous year.

Signs of potential weakness on trade and the economy There are warning signs for Trump in the poll, too, particularly in Americans' assessment of his work on tariffs and the economy.

Trade negotiations with other countries is the issue on which he's rated especially negatively, with about 6 in 10 U.S. adults saying they disapprove of his job performance.

It's a relative low point, even among Republicans. □

Trump task force to review Harvard's funding after Columbia bows to federal demands

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harvard University has become the latest target in the Trump administration's approach to fight campus antisemitism, with the announcement of a new "comprehensive review" that could jeopardize billions of dollars for the Ivy League college.

A federal antisemitism task force is reviewing more than \$255 million in contracts between Harvard and the federal government to make sure the school is following civil rights laws, the administration announced Monday. The government also will examine \$8.7 billion in

grant commitments to Harvard and its affiliates.

The same task force cut \$400 million from Columbia University and threatened to slash billions more if it refused a list of demands from President Donald Trump's administration. Columbia agreed to many of the changes this month, drawing praise from some Jewish groups and condemnation from free speech groups, who see it as a stunning intrusion by the federal government. Dozens of other universities have been put on notice by the Trump administration that they could face similar treatment over allegations of antisemitism. The federal gov-

ernment is a major provider of revenue for American universities through grants for scientific research.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said Harvard symbolizes the American Dream but has jeopardized its reputation by "promoting divisive ideologies over free inquiry." "Harvard can right these wrongs and restore itself to a campus dedicated to academic excellence and truth-seeking, where all students feel safe on its campus," McMahon said in a statement.

The announcement didn't say whether the government had made any specific demands of Harvard.



A student protester stands in front of the statue of John Harvard, the first major benefactor of Harvard College, draped in the Palestinian flag, at an encampment of students protesting against the war in Gaza, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., April 25, 2024.

Associated Press

The Education Department, the Health and Human Services Department and the

U.S. General Services Administration are leading the review. □

Judge blocks imports of some Chilean sea bass from Antarctica in fishing feud at bottom of the world

By JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge in Florida has blocked the imports of a high-priced fish from protected waters near Antarctica, siding with U.S. regulators who argued they were required to block imports amid a diplomatic feud triggered by Russia's obstruction of longstanding conservation efforts at the bottom of the world.

Judge David Leibowitz, in a ruling Monday, dismissed a lawsuit filed in 2022 by Texas-based Southern Cross Seafoods that alleged it had suffered undue economic harm by what it argued was the U.S. government's arbitrary decision to bar imports of Chilean sea bass.

The case, closely watched by conservation groups and the fishing industry, stems from Russia's rejection of catch limits for marine life near the South Pole.

Every year for four decades, 26 governments banded together in the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, or CCAMLR, to set catch limits for Patagonia toothfish,



Fillets of Chilean sea bass caught near the U.K.-controlled South Georgia island are displayed for sale at a Whole Foods Market in Cleveland, Ohio on June 17, 2022.

as Chilean sea bass is also known, based on the recommendations of a committee of international scientists.

But in 2021, and ever since, Russian representatives to the treaty organization have refused to sign off on the catch limits in what many see as a part of a broader push by President Vladimir

Putin's government to stymie international cooperation on a range of issues. Russia's refusal was an effective veto because the commission works by consensus, meaning any single government can hold up action.

The U.K.'s response to Russia's gambit was to unilaterally set its own catch limit for

Chilean sea bass lower than the never-adopted recommendation of the scientific commission and issue its own licenses to fish off the coast of South Georgia, an uninhabited island it controls in the South Atlantic. That drew fire from environmentalists as well as U.S. officials, who fear it could encourage even

Associated Press

worse abuse, undermining international fisheries management. Leibowitz in his ruling sided with the U.S. government's interpretation of its treaty obligations, warning that the U.K.'s eschewing of the procedures established by CCAMLR risked overfishing in a sensitive part of the South Atlantic and undermining the very essence of the treaty. "Unlimited fishing would by no means further the goals of CCAMLR to protect the Antarctic ecosystem," he wrote. "Allowing one nation to refuse to agree on a catch limit for a particular fish only to then be able to harvest that fish in unlimited quantities would contravene the expressed purposes of CCAMLR."

The ruling effectively extends an existing ban on imports from all U.K.-licensed fishing vessels operating near South Georgia, which is also claimed by Argentina. However, the fish is still available in the U.S. from suppliers authorized by Australia, France and other countries in areas where Russia did not object to the proposed catch limits. □

Prosecutor makes offers to 10 New York prison guards charged in inmate's death

By MICHAEL HILL

Associated Press

UTICA, N.Y. (AP) — A special prosecutor said Monday he made offers to resolve criminal cases against 10 New York prison guards indicted in the beating death of a handcuffed man.

Six correctional officers were charged with murder last month in the December death of Robert Brooks, 43, whose brutal beating at Marcy Correctional Facility was captured on body-worn cameras. Three other prison employees were charged with manslaughter and another with evidence tampering.

The offers were publicly revealed during a pretrial court conference by Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick, who

declined to provide details afterward. The individual defendants will appear in court in April to either accept or reject the offers.

The prosecutor's offer to David Walters, charged with second-degree man-

slaughter, was to plead guilty to the existing charge with a recommendation for a mid-range sentence, his attorney Nick Passalacqua said.

"We've not been made an offer as I define it. We've

been asked to plead guilty to the charge," Passalacqua said, adding that he believed other defendants received similar offers.

Other attorneys declined comment after court. Walters was due back in court April 30.

Fitzpatrick also told defense attorneys that he talked to federal prosecutors looking into Brooks' death about the offers.

"They are actively pursuing the matter. I have suggested to them that the dispositions I have offered would satisfy the case completely," Fitzpatrick said in court. "They have not agreed to that, but they did respond in a favorable manner indicating they would consider that."

The body-worn camera video shows officers beat-

ing Brooks the night of Dec. 9 while his hands were cuffed behind his back. Officers are seen striking him in the chest with a shoe, lifting him by the neck, and dropping him. Brooks died the next day.

Brooks had been serving a 12-year prison sentence for first-degree assault since 2017. He had been transferred from a nearby facility to the prison 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of New York City shortly before the videotaped beating.

Three other prison employees have reached plea agreements, Fitzpatrick has said.

Fitzpatrick also is investigating the death of Messiah Nantwi on March 1 at nearby Mid-State Correctional Facility in Marcy. □



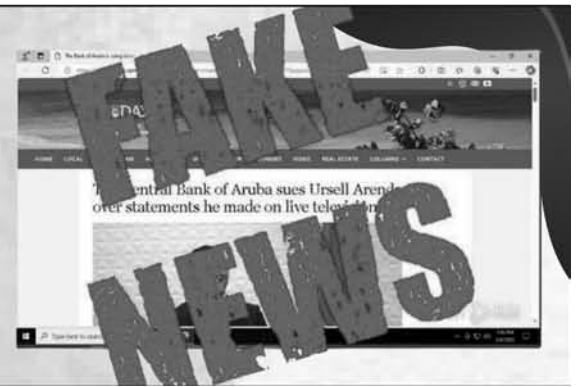
Robert Brooks Jr. speaks during a news conference as his lawyer Steve Schwarz, left, and Jared Ricks, listen in Rochester, N.Y., Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2024.

Associated Press

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In Lithuania, 3 U.S. soldiers found dead in an armored vehicle; 1 is still missing

By LIUDAS DAPKUS and LO-LITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) —

Three of the U.S. Army soldiers who went missing in Lithuania have been found dead in their armored vehicle that was pulled from a swampy area early Monday, according to U.S. Army Europe and Africa Command. Another soldier is still missing.

The bodies of the three soldiers were recovered after a massive six-day effort by U.S., Polish and Lithuanian armed forces and authorities to dig the M88 Hercules vehicle out of a peat bog at the expansive General Silvestras Žukauskas training ground in the town of Pabradė.

The soldiers were on a tactical training exercise when they and their vehicle were reported missing early Tuesday, the Army said.

The command in a statement said the identities of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division soldiers are being withheld pending family notifications.

"We stand in grief with the



In this image provided by the U.S. Army, U.S. Army soldiers from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, along with Lithuanian Army and emergency services personnel, discuss their plan to recover four U.S. soldiers in a U.S. Army M88 Hercules submerged under several meters of water in a swamp near a training area near Pabradė, Lithuania, Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Associated Press

families and loved ones of these extraordinary 'Dog-face Soldiers' during this unimaginable time," said Maj. Gen. Christopher Norrie, 3rd Infantry Division commander. "But the search

isn't finished until everyone is home. Words cannot express our gratitude to those still working around the clock during these extensive search and recovery efforts and your unwaver-

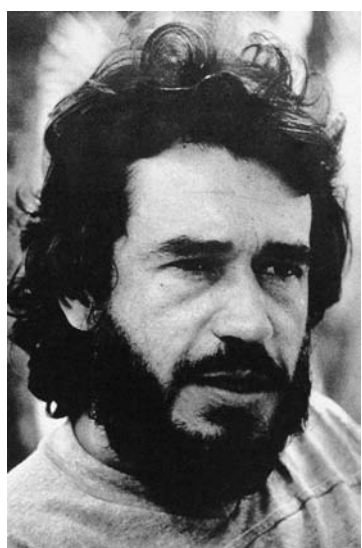
ing commitment not to rest until all are found."

Hundreds of Lithuanian and U.S. soldiers and rescuers took part in the search through the thick forests and swampy terrain around

Pabradė, just 10 kilometers (6 miles) west of the border with Belarus. The armored vehicle was discovered on Wednesday submerged in 4.5 meters (15 feet) of water.

Lithuanian armed forces provided military helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, unmanned aerial systems and search and rescue personnel. They brought in additional excavators, sluice and slurry pumps, other heavy construction equipment, technical experts and several hundred tons of gravel and earth to help the recovery.

U.S. Navy divers were able to maneuver through thick layers of mud, clay and sediment "with zero visibility" to reach the 63-ton vehicle Sunday evening and find two points to attach steel cables, according to the command. The command said that during the effort to pull out the vehicle, it began to lose traction, so additional heavy dozers were brought in and attached to provide additional grip. The vehicle was pulled free after about two hours, the command said. □



This undated photo shows Carlos Lehder in Colombia.
Associated Press

Former Medellin Cartel boss released in Colombia after a judge rules his sentence expired

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BOGOTÁ, Colombia (AP) — Colombian authorities released former Medellin Cartel boss Carlos Lehder on Monday after a judge ruled that a drug trafficking sentence issued in Colombia against the 75-year-old had expired. Lehder was arrested Friday night shortly after he landed in Bogota's airport, with immigration officials saying he was still wanted in the South American country on drug trafficking charges and weapons smuggling.

Lehder became the first Colombian drug trafficker extradited to the United States after he was arrested during a party at his ranch.

The former drug trafficker was extradited to the U.S. in 1987, where he served more than 30 years in prison. In

2020, Lehder was released after serving two-thirds of his U.S. sentence. He was deported to Germany, where he is also a citizen.

Lehder had not returned to Colombia since his extradition to the United States. His lawyer, Sondra Macollins said he was attempting to visit relatives when he arrived Friday.

"He is recovering from cancer, and has high blood pressure problems," Macollins told Colombia's Blu radio.

"We are talking about someone who spent years in dark cells."

Colombian authorities convicted Lehder for drug trafficking in 1995, while he was serving the separate sentence at a U.S. prison. The cartel boss was sentenced to 24 years in prison in Colombia, meaning his sentence expired in 2019, according to Colombian law. □

A Kremlin official says Russia sees efforts to end Ukraine war as a drawn-out process

By The Associated Press

Russia views efforts to end its three-year war with Ukraine as "a drawn-out process," a Kremlin spokesman said Monday, after U.S. President Donald Trump expressed frustration with the two countries' leaders as he tries to bring about a truce.

"We are working to implement some ideas in connection with the Ukrainian settlement. This work is ongoing," Dmitry Peskov said in a conference call with reporters.

"There is nothing concrete yet that we could and should announce. This is a drawn-out process because of the difficulty of its substance," the Kremlin spokesman said when asked about Trump's anger at Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments dismissing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's legitimacy to negotiate a deal.

Russia has effectively rejected a U.S. proposal for a full and immediate 30-day halt in the fighting. The feasibility of a partial ceasefire on the Black Sea, used by both countries to transport shipments of grain and other cargo, was cast into doubt after Kremlin negotiators imposed far-reaching conditions.



In this photo taken from video distributed by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Sunday, March 30, 2025, a Russian Army 2S5 howitzer Giatint-S fires towards Ukrainian positions in Ukraine. Associated Press

Trump promised during last year's U.S. election campaign that he would bring Europe's biggest conflict since World War II to a swift conclusion.

Peskov didn't directly address Trump's criticism of Putin on Sunday, when he said he was "angry, pissed off" that Putin had questioned Zelenskyy's credibility as leader.

But the spokesman said that Putin "remains absolutely open to contacts" with the U.S. president and was ready to speak to him. Both countries are preparing for a spring-summer

campaign on the battlefield, analysts and Ukrainian and Western officials say.

Putin on Monday ordered a regular bi-annual call-up intended to draft 160,000 conscripts for an one-year tour of compulsory military service. Russian authorities say that the troops deployed to Ukraine only include volunteers who signed contracts with the military and conscripts aren't sent to the frontline. Some draftees, however, fought and were taken prisoners when the Ukrainian military launched an incursion into Russia's Kursk

region in August.

Zelenskyy said late Sunday that there has been no reduction in Russia's attacks as it drives on with its invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022.

"The geography and brutality of Russian strikes, not just occasionally, but literally every day and night, show that Putin couldn't care less about diplomacy," Zelenskyy said in his daily address.

"And almost every day, in response to this proposal, there are Russian drones, bombs, artillery shelling, and ballistic strikes," he

said.

He urged further international pressure on Moscow to compel Russia to negotiate, including new sanctions.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas picked up on that theme at a meeting of some of the bloc's top diplomats in Madrid on Monday.

"Russia is playing games and not really wanting peace," Kallas told reporters ahead of the meeting, which was due to discuss the war.

"So our question is, how can we put more pressure on Russia."

Trump said he would consider imposing further sanctions on Russia, which already faces steep financial penalties, and using tariffs to undermine its oil exports. Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, came under another Russian drone attack overnight, injuring three people, the Ukrainian Interior Ministry said Monday.

Russia also fired two ballistic missiles and 131 Shakhed and decoy drones, the Ukrainian air force said.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said air defenses shot down 66 Ukrainian drones early Monday over three Russian regions. □

UAE court sentences 3 people to death in killing of Israeli-Moldovan rabbi Zvi Kogan



A rabbi delivers an eulogy next to the coffin containing the remains of Israeli-Moldovan rabbi Zvi Kogan in Kfar Chabad, Israel, Monday Nov. 25, 2024. Associated Press

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A court in the United Arab Emirates has sentenced three people to death for the killing of Israeli-Moldovan Zvi Kogan, state media reported Monday.

The state-run WAM news agency announced the verdicts of the three after a trial in Abu Dhabi Federal Court of Appeals' State Security Chamber. It said a fourth person who aided the killing received a life sentence.

It did not identify those charged. However, three Uzbek nationals had been arrested in Turkey and brought back to the UAE over the killing in November.

"The defendants had tracked and murdered the victim," the WAM report said. "The evidence presented by the State Security Prosecution to the court included the defendants' detailed confessions to the crimes of murder and kidnapping, along with forensic reports, post-mortem examination findings, details of the instruments used in the crime and witness testimonies."

Authorities in the UAE have not offered a motive for the killing, nor any details about how Kogan was kidnapped and slain. However, it came amid the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, which has inflamed anger across the wider Muslim world.

Diplomatic ties between Israel and the UAE have remained intact, though strained, by the war as Israel maintains a consulate in Dubai and an embassy in Abu Dhabi. □

Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.



Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.



Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let

their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.



Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.



Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □





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Visit the island's hidden natural pools



(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto

and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle’s Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you’re up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you’ve completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It’s also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural



pool that is hidden there. Because it’s still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won’t be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably

notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you’ll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder. □

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott’s Aruba Surf Club!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say “Masha Danki” to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Russell & Mrs. Lindsay Martin from Greenland

New Hampshire, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott’s Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba’s people.
- Aruba’s weather.
- Aruba’s restaurants.
- “The feeling of safety”

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the “One Happy Island”. □

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Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamentu above all else. **Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.**

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamentu you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamentu means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamentu word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique



way to say "hello" in Papiamentu. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?" The word "con" in Papiamentu means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamentu is no different. Since Papiamentu is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atar-di", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamentu. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give per-

mission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Nancy Cowen from Wilmington, North Carolina, USA. She wrote to us saying:



"Aruba to me is coming back every year to spend time with friends who are

our Aruba family."

Thank you for sending us this

wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend



would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their

stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

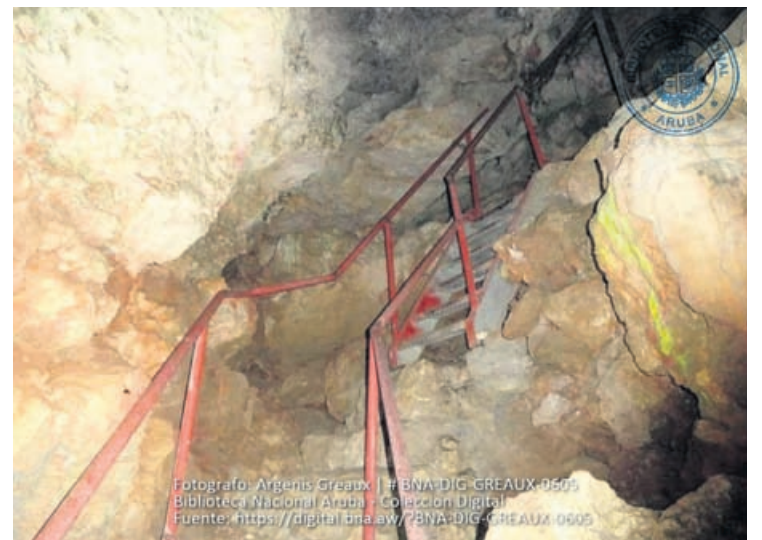


The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave. However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now,

as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □



Meet Aruba's biggest hero Boy Ecury



(Oranjestad)—This past May 4th, Aruba as well as The Netherlands commemorated those who sadly perished during the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the frontline during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands

made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion groups that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also

helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities. Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjestad" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being given away by an acquaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military hon-



or. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Ja-

vanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy,

slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and re-branding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand,

when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re) opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and

overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument. Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers. □



CROSSWORD

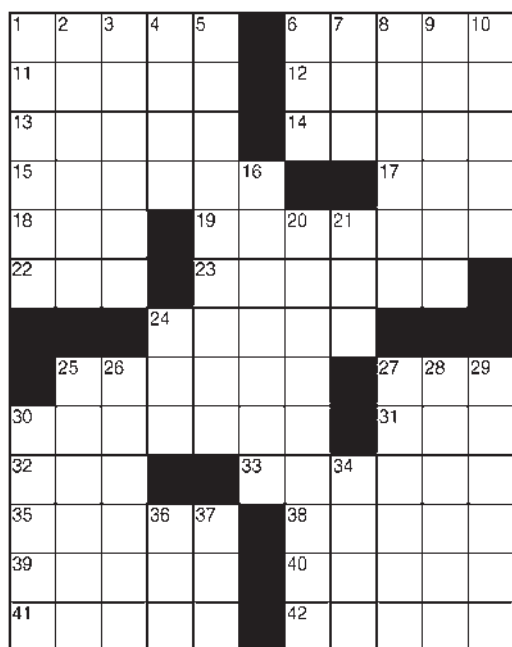
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Leek's cousin
 - 1 Letter stroke
 - 40 Corpulent
 - 6 Some files
 - 41 Comfy spots
 - 11 Treeless plain
 - 42 Extreme diets
 - 12 Perfect
 - 13 Barcelona buddy
 - 14 Sea ray
 - 15 Classic Ford
 - 17 Cub's cave
 - 18 Mine matter
 - 19 Testing the weight of
 - 22 Homer's neighbor
 - 23 Sprinkle with oil
 - 24 Hot crime
 - 25 "Water Music" composer
 - 27 Buddy
 - 30 Roil
 - 31 Georgia airport code
 - 32 Moody music
 - 33 Magic word
 - 35 Jessica of "Tootsie"
 - 38 "Wanda-Vision" star
 - Elizabeth

DOWN

- 1 Apply with force, as brakes
- 2 Writer Leonard
- 3 Stole from
- 4 "Picnic" playwright
- 5 Reckless
- 6 Brink
- 7 Nabokov novel
- 8 Mail, as payment
- 9 Gizmo protector
- 10 Informal talk
- 16 Get rigid
- 20 Infallible
- 21 Light metal
- 24 What's more
- 25 Kind
- 26 Venus's love
- 27 Church services
- 28 Swear
- 29 Genetic copies
- 30 Honey-dew, for one
- 34 Exile isle
- 36 Procured
- 37 USN rank

EDWIN FABLE
SIEGE ICE IN
SEALS GRAND
ROTE ORES
ALSO WEBS
NET REGATT
TAHOE OTHER
SPECIES ELM
CENT ABLY
MARA ABEL
ALONE OSAKA
TOWIT WOMEN
HENCE SPEND



4-1

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-1 CRYPTOQUOTE
RI ZQZJV KSJQRIT CZEKA, RI
ZQZJV TJERI UG DEIL FAZJZ
RD FAZ DFUJV UG FAZ ZEJFA.

— JEKAZP KEJDUI
Cryptoquote: SOMEDAY WE'LL
FIND IT, THE RAINBOW CONNECTION, THE
LOVERS, THE DREAMERS AND ME. — KERMIT
THE FROG

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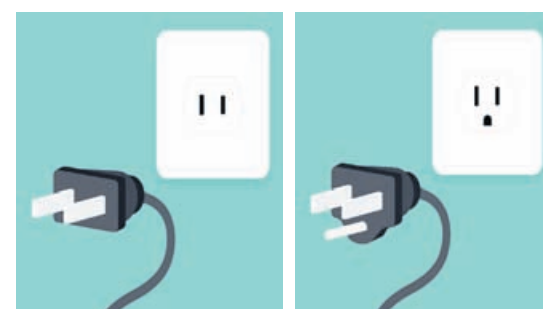
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	01	CELEBRITY REFLECTION CARNIVAL HORIZON NORWEGIAN VIVA LOGOS HOPE	08.00 09.00 11.00 ****	23.00 23.00 21.00 ****	B C I E	1 1 1 -
WED	02	ROTTERDAM LOGOS HOPE	08.00 ****	17.00 ****	C E	1 -
THU	03	AIDABELLA NORWEGIAN JEWEL LOGOS HOPE	08.00 10.30 ****	18.00 20.30 ****	B C E	1 1 -
FRI	04	NORWEGIAN PEARL LOGOS HOPE	10.00 ****	22.00 ****	C E	1 -
SAT	05	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS LOGOS HOPE	16.30 ****	**** ****	C E	1 -
SUN	06	RESILIENT LADY EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept. OCEANIA SIRENA LOGOS HOPE	08.00 **** 11.00 ****	23.59 23.00 21.00 ****	B C I E	1 - 1 -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Trump has dubbed April 2 'Liberation Day' for tariffs. Here's what to expect



White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt speaks with reporters at the White House, Monday, March 31, 2025, in Washington.

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As the trade wars launched by U.S. President Donald Trump continue to escalate, all eyes are on Wednesday.

Trump has repeatedly called April 2 "Liberation Day," with promises to roll out a set of tariffs, or taxes on imports from other countries, that he says will free the U.S. from a reliance on foreign goods. To do this, Trump has said he'll impose "reciprocal" tariffs to match the duties that other countries charge on U.S. products.

But a lot remains unknown about how these levies will actually be implemented. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday that Trump would unveil his plans to place reciprocal tariffs on nearly all American trading partners on Wednesday, but maintained that the details are up to the president to announce.

Since taking office just months ago, Trump has proven to be aggressive with tariff threats, all while creating a sense of whip-lash through on-again, off-again trade actions. And it's possible that we'll see more delays or confusion

this week. Trump has argued that tariffs protect U.S. industries from unfair foreign competition, raise money for the federal government and provide leverage to demand concessions from other countries. But economists stress that broad tariffs at the rates suggested by Trump could backfire. Tariffs typically trickle down to the consumer through higher prices and businesses worldwide also have a

lot to lose if their costs rise and their sales fall. Import taxes already in effect, coupled with uncertainty around future trade actions and possible retaliations, have already roiled financial markets and lowered consumer confidence while enveloping many with questions that could delay hiring and investment. Here's what you need to know. What will happen on April

2?
Details around Trump's plans remain uncertain. Reciprocal tariffs could take the form of product-by-product duties, for example, or more broad "averages" imposed across all goods from each country or perhaps something else entirely. The rates could reflect what other countries charge as well as their value added taxes and subsidies to domestic companies. White House trade adviser Peter Navarro told "Fox News Sunday" that the tariffs could raise \$600 billion annually, which would imply an average rate of 20%. □

Associated Press

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3 bdrm will pay \$250,000.
Want wk 7 2bdrm pay \$55,000.
3 bdrm \$75,000.
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318343



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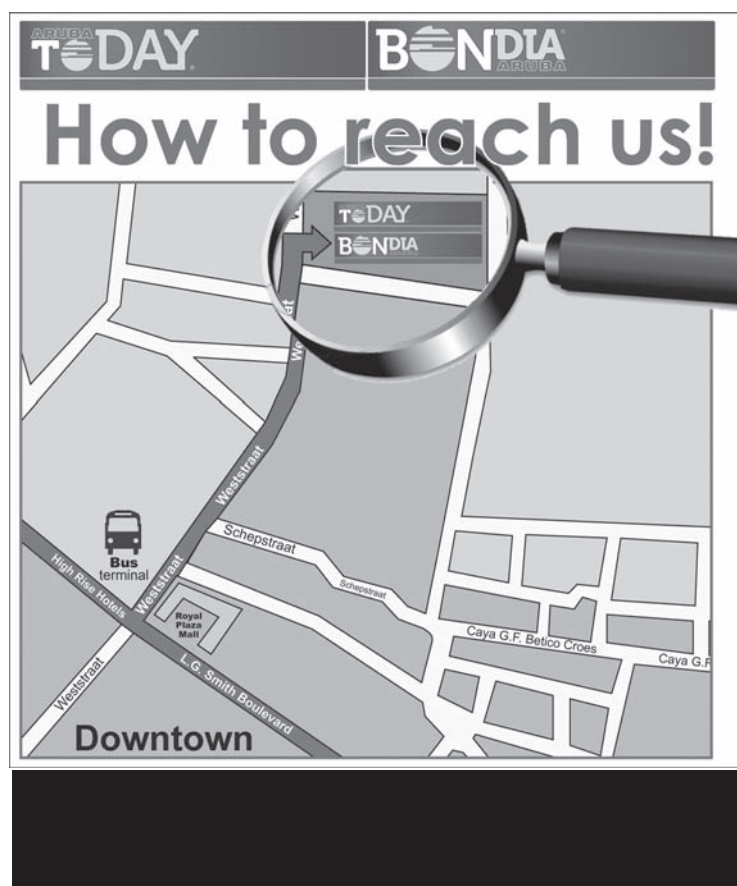
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OTHER

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+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Alcoholics Anonymous
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Narcotics Anonymous
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Liza Minnelli documentary sheds light on those who helped shape a superstar

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

Documentary filmmaker Bruce David Klein had finished shooting for the day when he was told that his subject, Liza Minnelli, wanted to see him privately. He found her sitting on the edge of her bed.

"She grabbed my hand. She started petting it and she looked up at me with those luminous, dark eyes and said, 'Bruce, don't put in anything phony in the movie. Don't make me look like a phony,'" he said. After years of arguing with his subjects that they needed to be truthful on film, Minnelli's request was refreshing. And accepted. The result is the unvarnished documentary "Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story."

The film, which lands on PBS on Tuesday as part of its American Masters series, offers fresh insight into an EGOT winner who overcame addiction, insecurity and the shadow of her mother Judy Garland to become a beloved American icon.

"We could probably have made three dozen different films on Liza's life," says



Actress-singer Liza Minnelli poses for a portrait in New York on Nov. 19, 2009.

Associated Press

Klein, who has previously made documentaries on Meat Loaf and Carl Icahn. "It's a big epic subject that she is."

Not a conventional biopic Klein uses old performance clips and new interviews with friends and admirers like Ben Vereen, Mia Farrow, Chita Rivera, George Hamilton, Joel Grey, John Kander, Darren Criss and Michael Feinstein plus re-

vealing sit-downs with Minnelli herself.

The filmmaker didn't want to do a conventional biopic: "It sounds pretentious, but I did learn over years of doing this that the smartest thing to do was to let the material speak to me instead of applying a preconceived notion of what the film would be." A light bulb went on when he and Minnelli, 78, first sat down

and he asked her about Fred Ebb, the lyricist half of the legendary Broadway songwriting duo with Kander that wrote "Cabaret" and "Chicago."

"Oh, Freddy," she said. "He invented me."

From there, Klein realized that Minnelli had leaned on five key mentors after her mother died in 1969, people who helped shape the then-raw performer Ebb,

Kay Thompson, Charles Aznavour, Bob Fosse and the designer Halston.

"I think the greatest gift that these mentors gave to her was confidence self-confidence," says Klein. Most superstars like to boast they did it all alone. Not Minnelli: "In Liza's case, she actually was very much in favor of giving credit and being humble that way."

The five mentors

The documentary makes the case that Aznavour called the French Frank Sinatra helped her deliver a song closer to the heart, and that Fosse gave her dancing both precision and discipline.

Thompson, an actor, singer and author, mentored her like a quirky godmother and Halston made her glamorous. Ebb was like a big brother who supplied her with many important lyrics, including for her landmark 1972 concert film "Liza With a Z."

"People do ask me a lot what was the most important moment and what was the height of Liza's career. And they expect me to say 'Cabaret,' but absolutely, positively, it's 'Liza With a Z,'" says Klein. □

'Coyote vs. Acme' finds a new home after being shelved by Warner Bros.

By **JAKE COYLE**

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For

once, things are working out for Wile E. Coyote.

After being shelved by



John Cena appears at the premiere of the film "Argyle" in London on Jan. 24, 2024, left, and Will Forte appears at the premiere of Netflix's "Kinda Pregnant" in New York on Feb. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

Warner Bros. in 2023, the Looney Tunes film "Coyote vs. Acme" has found a new home. Ketchup Entertainment announced Monday that it acquired worldwide distribution rights to the film for an undisclosed sum.

The deal gives new life to one of the three fully completed films that Warner Bros. elected to take a tax write-off on rather than release. The tactic, which followed a change in leadership at Warner Bros. coming out of the pandemic, was widely disparaged by creatives and fans, alike. The other two shelved movies the \$90 million DC Studios production "Batgirl" and the animated "Scoob! Holiday Haunt"

remain unreleased. But "Coyote vs. Acme" will be salvaged from the dustbin. Ketchup Entertainment plans a theatrical release at an unspecified future date. "We're thrilled to have made a deal with Warner Bros. Pictures to bring this film to audiences worldwide," Gareth West, chief executive of Ketchup Entertainment, said in a statement. "'Coyote vs Acme' is a perfect blend of nostalgia and modern storytelling, capturing the essence of the beloved Looney Tunes characters while introducing them to a new generation."

Directed by Dave Green and based on a New Yorker article by Ian Frazier,

"Coyote vs. Acme" follows Wile E. Coyote in a lawsuit against Acme Corporation for the many faulty products that failed to catch him the Road Runner. The live-action animated hybrid stars John Cena and Will Forte. Deadline earlier reported that Ketchup paid about \$50 million for the film, which cost \$70 million to produce. Ketchup, a distribution company launched in 2012, also recently released another Looney Tunes film jettisoned by Warner Bros.: "The Day the Earth Blew Up: A Looney Tunes Movie." In three weeks of release, it's grossed \$8.2 million in domestic ticket sales. □

Tush push is the hottest topic at the NFL league meetings

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) —

Banning the “tush push” is gaining momentum.

Still, it'll take 24 of 32 votes to eliminate a play that's become a short-yardage staple for the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles.

NFL team owners, coaches and general managers are considering several potential rule changes at this week's league meetings. Nothing has garnered more attention than Philadelphia's version of the quarterback sneak.

The Green Bay Packers issued the proposal to ban it, citing player safety and pace of play.

Although NFL executive Troy Vincent said last month there have been zero injuries reported as a result of the play, Buffalo Bills coach Sean McDermott, a member of the NFL's competition committee, is leading the push to get rid of it.

“I feel where I'm most concerned is, even though there is not significant data out there to this point, my biggest concern is the health and safety of the players, first and foremost,” McDermott said on Monday. “It's two things. It's force, added force, No. 1, and then the posture of the players, being asked to execute that type of play, that's where my concern comes in. ... I'm not a doctor. I'm not going to get too deep into that situation



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts (1) lines up for the goal line Tush Push play during the NFL championship playoff football game against the Washington Commanders, Jan. 26, 2025, in Philadelphia.

there, in terms of how much data, how much sample. I don't think that's really always the best way to go. There is other data out there that suggests when you're in a posture like we're talking about, that can lead to serious injury. I think being responsible and proactive in that regard is the right way to go.”

Chiefs coach Andy Reid, who watched Jalen Hurts score on a tush push to kick off Philadelphia's 40-22 rout of Kansas City in the Super Bowl, sounded as if he might be on board with McDermott.

“Tough play to stop but then you're listening to that and the medical side

and you probably could go either way with it,” Reid said. “But I would say if it's putting a player in a bad position, then you probably have to do something about it. But if it's not, it's a heck of a play.”

Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, who is also a member of the competition committee, wanted to hear more about the safety concerns.

“I think the first time I saw it, I couldn't believe that it was legal because it was illegal on the field goal,” Tomlin said. “That being said, you hate to be against it because when people are innovative, you want to respect that. And so there's

certainly been some teams that have been more innovative than the rest of us in that regard. And you hate to penalize them for that. But again, we got into the discussion on the field goal block because of player safety. And so that's still remains to be a component of the discussion.”

Houston Texans coach DeMeco Ryans and Cleveland Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said they don't want the play banned.

“It's tough to punish a team for being really good at something,” Ryans said. Tampa Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles made it clear last month he wouldn't support a ban, either.

Other changes include making the dynamic kick-off rule permanent and overhauling the playoff format.

The NFL competition committee has recommended sticking with the kickoff rule that was redesigned last year and tweaking it to move touchbacks to the 35-yard line in hopes of generating even more returns.

The Detroit Lions proposed that playoff seeding should be based on record instead of automatically placing division winners in the top four spots.

“I'm a division purist,” Tomlin said.

The committee also proposed an expansion of instant replay to allow replay assist to consult on-field officials to overrule objective calls such as facemask penalties, whether there was forcible contact to the head or neck area, horse-collar tackles or tripping if there was “clear and obvious” evidence that a foul didn't occur. Replay would also be able to overturn a roughing the kicker or running into the kicker penalty if video replay showed the defender made contact with the ball.

Abu Dhabi

NFL executive Peter O'Reilly said the league is considering potentially playing a game in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

“We have more work to do there,” O'Reilly said. □

Shohei Ohtani leads MLB jersey sales; he leads 6 Dodgers in the top 20

By **The Associated Press**

Shohei Ohtani has another win to add to his stockpile.

After winning the World Series and his third league MVP award, the Los Angeles Dodgers star now has the world's most popular Major League Baseball jersey.

The league says the rankings are based on sales of Nike jerseys from the Fanatics network of sites, including MLBShop.com, since the culmination of the World Series.

Ohtani leads six Dodgers in the top 20. Others are Freddie Freeman at No. 2, Mookie Betts at No. 4, Yoshinobu Yamamoto at No. 10, Clayton Kershaw at No. 11 and Kiké Hernández at No. 16. With Ohtani's jersey at No. 1 and Yamamoto's at No. 10, it is just the second time two Japanese-born players have ranked in the top 10. Ichiro Suzuki and Yu Darvish did it in 2012.

Non-Dodgers in the top five are Juan Soto of the New York Mets at No. 3 and reigning American League MVP Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees at No. 5. They are followed in order by Francisco Lindor of the New York Mets, Bryce Harper of the Philadelphia Phillies, Jose Altuve of the Houston Astros, Ronald Acuña Jr. of the Atlanta Braves and Yamamoto. □



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani flies out during the third inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Saturday, March 29, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Efficiency metrics touted Duke, Houston, Florida and Auburn all year. Now they're in the Final Four

By **AARON BEARD**
AP Basketball Writer

The data told the story all year on Duke, Houston, Florida and Auburn. In that regard, it shouldn't be a surprise to see them in the Final Four as only the second all-chalk set of 1-seeds to reach college basketball's final stage.

The Blue Devils, Cougars, Gators and Tigers had held the top four spots in daily rankings from KenPom since the first half of February, and their net efficiency ranks among the best ever charted by the analytics site going back more than a quarter-century. They were also the headliners on data-driven rankings from Bart Torvik and Evan Miyakawa as well, further confirmation of how good these teams have been from November, through March Madness and now entering San Antonio.

There's only a few minor variations in those comparisons. Duke is No. 1 for KenPom and Miyakawa ahead of Houston, while the Cougars are No. 1 in Torvik ahead of the Blue Devils. And the offensive and defensive efficiency numbers are all in the top 10 except for Torvik having the Gators at 15th in adjusted defen-



Florida head coach Todd Golden celebrates following his team's win over Texas Tech in the Elite Eight of the NCAA college basketball tournament, Saturday, March 29, 2025, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

sive efficiency. Otherwise, the data matches the eye test. College and NBA TV analyst Terrence Oglesby, who played at Clemson, pointed to all four having "big, switchable guys who can make shots" as a common thread between the teams operating at elite efficiency on both sides of the ball. "Outside of that top four, a lot of people were de-

pending on runs," Oglesby said. "You have to be able to play both sides of the ball with consistency. And these four do that so much better than everyone else." And that applies over years, too, when it comes to KenPom's long-running data.

KenPom bases efficiency metrics on points scored or allowed over a standardized 100-possession pace,

which eliminates tempo as a factor in high averages boosted by playing at a faster pace or numbers depressed by grind-down-the-clock styles. The overall rankings are determined by net efficiency in terms of how much a team's offensive data outpaces its defensive numbers.

In that regard, Duke's plus-39.62 rating is the second-highest net efficiency re-

corded by KenPom in data back to the 1996-97 season. Only the Blue Devils' 1998-99 team (plus 43.01) that went 37-2 and lost in the NCAA title game ranks higher.

Duke is coming off a defensive masterclass in the East Region final against 2-seed Alabama, which had scored 113 points and hit 25 3-pointers in its Sweet 16 win against BYU. The Blue Devils have the nation's tallest roster with every rotation player standing 6-feet-5 or taller, and they're an elite switching group with bigs using their length to capably contest against smaller, quicker guards out to the arc.

That helped them smother the Crimson Tide: Alabama went 8 of 32 from 3-point range, made just 45.4% of its two point shots and averaged .942 points per possession. Its 65-point output joined a January loss to Ole Miss (64) as the only times the Tide failed to reach 70 points in the past two seasons.

"Duke is as good a team as we've seen all year," Alabama coach Nate Oats said.

"We've got some really good teams in the SEC, and they're at that level." □

Trae Young is named assistant general manager for Oklahoma men's basketball

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Sooners player and Atlanta Hawks star Trae Young as Oklahoma has hired former



Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young (11) drives to the basket against Milwaukee Bucks' Taurean Prince, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 30, 2025, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

assistant general manager for men's basketball.

He also has pledged to donate \$1 million to the program, the school announced Monday.

Young, a four-time NBA All-Star, was an All-American for Oklahoma in 2017-18, his only season with the Sooners. He became the first player in NCAA Division I history to lead the nation in points per game (27.4) and assists per game (8.7). He was drafted No. 5 overall.

The 26-year-old Norman North High School graduate for years has worn his love for the city on his sleeve.

"As someone who grew

up in Norman and played at the University of Oklahoma, stepping into the role of assistant GM for OU Basketball is a huge honor," Young said in a statement. "This program has such a rich history, which I am fortunate to have been and continue to be a part of. In my new role, my focus is on helping contribute to OU's winning culture, working alongside the coaching staff and front office to bring in the right players to help us compete and succeed at the highest level."

Young will assist with the evaluation of high school and transfer portal prospects, help negotiate player contracts and guide

players in building their brands.

"Trae is a son of Norman, Oklahoma, and he's given so much to our city and its people," Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione said. "He has a strong affinity for this place and his commitment to ensuring our community is a thriving one is truly unmatched. He's also an OU legend who, in his time here and since, continues to achieve excellence both on and off the court."

Young joins Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry in taking on an administrative role at his alma mater in this new era of college sports. □